

CARRIER TOWNSHIP -
SPENCER COUNTY, IND.

DRAWER 11A

TOWNS-LINCOLN INTEREST

71.2009.085.05104

Indiana

Cities & Towns

Carter Township

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Tampa Fla.
Jan. 4, 1933

Mr. O. V. Brown
Dale, Ind.

Dear Mr. Brown:

I was glad to hear from you and greatly appreciate the map of Lincoln Park and surroundings and also for the picture of Pigeon Creek Church. In answer to your questions-- My fathers home as shown in your map, was his home from 1861 to Aug. 23, 1884, the date of his death. He moved to this home from his old home on the same farm, and located about one-fourth mile east of the new home. This was no doubt the home to which Lincoln came often to read the statutes of Indiana (Statutes of 1824) when father was constable, and his home when the Lincoln family moved to Illinois in 1830. Answering the third question-- Abe made rails for father, perhaps some of the older citizens remember a time when a great many persons were anxious to have walking canes made from rails made by Lincoln. They came to father and others seeking such rails. Father said he told them that though Abe made some of the rails in use on his farm, he could not point to any one rail and say he was sure that Abe made that rail. Some of the older persons may remember where the old house was located. The logs with which the kitchen was built was removed and the kitchen was rebuilt on the extreme North West corner of the farm where the Gentryville road turns from the west to the south. It was afterward occupied by persons employed by the year at an agreed price per month and for help on the farm. Noah Osborne, Theo. Spurlock, A Mr. Schull and a Mr. Miller each at one time occupied the house. The removal of the frame house was to my mind an important event. The ground was covered with snow. Long timbers were put under the building for runners, Ox teams, more than could now be found in any section of southern Indiana, were collected without difficulty and by the combined power of these teams, encouraged by a number of drivers, each in charge of his own team--The house was moved to Dale and located perhaps 100 yards or more North West of the old Presbyterian church. The house was in good condition, was occupied for a time by Mr. Carleton. Pardon me for wandering so far from the questions asked. As for anything to add to your collection. I am sorry to say that I have nothing. The cupboard is loaned to Vanderburgh County Museum. We are hoping that the New Year has many and much blessings in store for you and our Dale friends.

Sincerely yours,

G. W. Turnham

G. W. Turnham

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TO SETTLEMENT IN CARTER TOWNSHIP, SPENCER COUNTY INDIANA

COPIED FROM NUMBER 271-272 PAGES OF
HISTORY OF SPENCER COUNTY, INDIANA

CARTER TOWNSHIP--It is probable that Thomas Carter was the first permanent settler in Carter Township. This was about the year 1815. Thomas Vandever came in early. Quite a large settlement was made in the western part prior to 1820. Among the earliest were David Casebeer, Willis Boone, Thomas Jones, Thomas Medcalf, John Jones, Lawrence Jones, William Smith, Thomas Lowe, Thomas Lincoln, father of President Lincoln, Thomas Turnham, Edley Brown, John Morris, Luther Greathouse, Henry Morris, William Whitten, Elijah Whitten, James Wilson, Nathan Rice, Robert Wood, William Wood and others. Thomas Medcalf at a very early day built a water-mill in the northwestern part of the township. The settlers here went to Rockport and Rome for groceries, and sold their supplies there. They often went for flour to George Taylor's mill at Taylorsville, in Warrick County. John Morris was the first blacksmith. He did work for the whole country, and mined his own coal. "A wagon-load would last him a year." Whittinghill's grist-mill, in Jackson Township, was often visited. Zachariah Ricks, of Rome, sold the first goods in the township. He placed a small stock of goods in the "up stairs" of the John Jones log-cabin, and here on certain days of the week he came to sell the stock to the settlers who gathered in to buy. Thomas Carter, who was one of the early County Commissioners, and after whom the township was named, erected a distillery a short time after locating on his place, having brought the still with him. He conducted it about three years, beginning in 1817.

The following were the only entries of land in Carter Township prior to 1820: Township 4 south, Range 5 west, Section 5, Jesse Lindsey, May, 1818, and John Dotten, March 1818; Section 7, Thomas Metcalf, May, 1818; Section 17, Henry Winkles, July, 1818, Lawrence Jones, July, 1819, William Smith, August, 1818; Section 18, Lawrence Jones, May, 1818, and John Jones, April 1817; Section 19, John Jones, March, 1818; Section 20, John Jones, June, 1817, and Thomas Lowe, April, 1819; Section 26, Joseph and William Wright, June, 1818; Section 31, John Jones, April, 1817; Section 32, Thomas Turnham, January, 1819, Thomas Lincoln (father of Abraham Lincoln), October 15, 1817, and Thomas Burrell, September, 1817; Section 33, Thomas Carter, May, 1817; Section 34, Noah Gordon, September, 1817. This township was called Carter while yet a part of Perry County. It was then much larger than at present.

At an election held at the house of Jonathan Greathouse in Carter Township, August, 1819, the following men cast their ballots: Taylor Basye, Andrew Crawford, John Woodall, Moses Randle, John Sumner, Zachariah Wright, William Leforce, Jonathan Greathouse, Joseph Wright, Lafayette Parker, George Angel, Demm Sumner, Josiah Swoliver, William Wright, Sr., John Ellis, Jesse Hoskins, John Masterson, John Angel, Chesley Wheeler, Ezekiel Powell, James Masterson, William Baird, Samuel Lamar, Jr., Samuel Powell, Thomas Lincoln, father of President Lincoln, George Huffman, William Woolard, Young Lamar, John Ewing, Thomas Carter and A. Richardson.

STATEMENT OF MR. DAVID TURNHAM CONCERNING ABE LINCOLN, AS
MADE TO MR. HERNDON AT TURNHAM'S HOME. 1/

Came by Aaron Grixby's--staid all night and on next day, September 15, 1865, went to Elizabeth, 4 miles from Gentryville. I went to David Turnham's. Turnham lives in Elizabeth, a town about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast. Elizabeth has a population of about 300 people--same size as Gentryville. Mr. Turnham commenced:

I came to Indiana in the year 1819-- the 5th of March. Settled in Spencer County. Settled about 3 miles south of this, and almost 1 mile northeast of Thomas Lincoln's. Am now 62 years.

I knew Abraham Lincoln well-- knew his father-- didn't know his mother. Immediately on landing in Indiana I became acquainted with Mr. Lincoln. My father and his were acquaintances in Kentucky. Abe was then almost 10 years of age, I being 16 years of age. Abe was a long, tall, gangling, and odd looking boy. Went hunting and fishing together. Abe was a boy of extraordinary mind I think. Went to school together--Hazel Dorsey's and And. W. Crawford's.

Dorsey kept first I think. He kept school near the Pigeon Meeting House, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from Thomas Lincoln's and south or southeast of his house. Crawford (And.W.) taught school next. He taught about $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile east of the Pigeon Meeting House. Dorsey kept school before the marriage of Aaron Grixby-- so did Crawford. Crawford kept school after Dorsey-- school of the next year. Our school was kept in the Fall and Winter--working in the summer. Lincoln went to school to these two men about four winters. Didn't go steady.

I didn't go to school to Dorsey. Lincoln had a strong mind. I was older than he was by 6 years and further advanced-- but he soon outstripped me. We studied first in ?(Delworth's)? Spelling Book, second in Webster. Lincoln studied arithmetic--no Geography, nor Grammar. Lincoln read the life of Washington, Pilgrim's Progress, Robinson Crusoe, the Bible--the New Testament, Hymn books--Watt's Hymns and ?(Dorsey's)?-- Think that (he read) news papers as early as 1828 or 1830.

Saw Sarah Lincoln many times. She was a woman of ordinary size. Have seen Mordecai Lincoln. He came to Indiana on a visit about 1822-23. He was the oldest brother. Sarah Lincoln had a good mind but I did not know her so well as I did Abe. She married Aaron Grixby.

We had but few books at that time and our opportunities were poor. Abe Lincoln was a moral boy, was temperate, sometimes took his dram as everybody else at that time. He was honest, he was an industrious boy. He didn't love physical work-- wouldn't do it, if it was agreeable to all. Was always reading, studying and thinking.

1/Copied by R.E. Johnson from the original manuscript in Herndon's handwriting, filed with other Lincoln papers in the Library of Congress.

Taken all in all, he was not a lazy man. Lincoln sometimes hunted on Sunday. What Lincoln read, he read and reread- read and studied thoroughly. He was generally at the head of all his classes whilst at school- in fact was nearly always so.

He loved fishing and hunted some- not a great deal. He was naturally cheerful and good natured while in Indiana. Abe was a long, tall, rawboned boy- odd and gauky. He had hardly attained 6 feet, 4 inches, when he left Indiana, weighed about 160.

I bought the hogs and corn of Thomas Lincoln when he was leaving for Illinois- bought about 100 (hogs) and about 4 or 5 hundred bushels of corn- paid 10 cents per bushel for the corn- hogs lumped. Lincoln when a boy wore buckskin for pants- wore coonskin caps- sometimes fox skin and sometimes possum skin caps. Buckskin was a common dress at that time.

When Lincoln was going about, he read everything that he could lay his hands on, and it was more than probable that he read the Louisville Journal, as well as other papers before he left Indiana. And, as before remarked, what he read, he read well and thoroughly, never forgetting what he read.

The Lincolns moved to Illinois in an ox wagon- 2 yoke of oxen- wagon ironed. Lincoln sold his farm to Gentry, James Gentry, Sr., the Grixby and Josiah Crawford weddings. The production was witty and showed talent. It marked the boy as a man.

Grixby and Johnson had a fight, and Grixby would have whipt Johnson, had no foul play been used, but Boland showed foul play. The fight took place after the marriage of Charles and Reuben Grixby.

Thomas Lincoln had about 40 acres of land under cultivation when he left for Illinois. He planted a young orchard on his old farm. Mr. Thomas Lincoln was a carpenter and cabinet maker. I have a cupboard in my house now which Mr. Thomas Lincoln made for me about 1821 or 22. Abe Lincoln had worked for my father some- worked at farming work.

To show Lincoln's -Abe's - Humanity, let me tell you a short story. One night when Lincoln and I were returning home from Gentryville, we were passing along the road in the night, we saw something laying near us in a mud hole, and saw that it was a man. We rolled him over and over- waked up the man. He was dead drunk. The night was cold- nearly frozen. We took him up - rather Abe did- carried him to Dennis Hank's, built up a fire and got him warm. I left - Abe staid all night. We had been threshing wheat - wheat threshers had passed Lincoln's house. Lincoln stooped and took care of the poor fellow - _____ Smith. This was in the year 1825.

There was one store in Gentryville. Dont publish this man's name. He was an honorable man, having now near us excellent and near relatives. Went and took dinner with Mr. Turnham - good dinner -- good man. Abe Lincoln was not fond of the girls. Lincoln went to Gorden's mills to grind. We had hand mills here.

I knew Thomas Lincoln very well- have shared his ____? and his ____?. He was not tall- was dark skinned - was stout and muscular- not nervous nor sinewy. He weighed about 165 pounds. He was somewhat rawboned - Abe favored him in many particulars. Both were humorous, good natured, slow in action somewhat. Sarah Lincoln favored Abe. She was dark skinned, heavy built - favored Abe very much - looked alike.

I knew Dennis Hanks. He was not the truest man in the world. Would dodge, equivocate, and exaggerate. The idea that he taught Lincoln to read and write is to me preposterous. The Hanks were a peculiar people - not chaste. Dennis Hanks was a bastard - was the son of _____. His mother married Levi Hall. Dennis Hanks married Miss Johnson, Abe Lincoln's step sister. Squire Hall married Matilda Johnson. Squire Hall was one-half brother to Hank. Squire Hall was the son (of) Levi Hall. These people were all good, clean people, I assure you, but they were peculiar.

Abe Lincoln preached the sermon (of) Jeremiah Cash. Cash had preached a sermon and Abe said he could repeat it, and we boys got him at it. Abe mounted a log and proceeded to give the text, and at it he went. He did preach almost the identical sermon. It was done with wonderful accuracy. This was in 1827.

Abe did not much like the girls - didn't appear to. We had here in early days hand mills on which - rather with which we ground our corn into meal.

(End of interview --- no signature)

Written across the margin of page 4 was the following: (Aaron Grixby says he now remembers that Lincoln read newspapers - that they were introduced about the time Al Jones came to Gentryville.)

Also, on the margin of page 5 was written: (Mallon built the Gorden Mill. Abe ground his corn there - so says Nat Grixby --- Abe wrote his name on the arms.) (of the mill).

OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1971

Messenger INQUIRER

City of Owensboro Messenger, 1914 combined January 1, 1913 with THE OWENSBORO INQUIRER, 1881

Yes—He's a 'distant' cousin

Rockport's F. Lincoln To Play A. Lincoln in Chicago Exhibit

By PARKER SAMS
Staff Writer

ROCKPORT, Ind. — He looks like his famous distant cousin, the 16th president of the United States, and his last name is Lincoln—Forrest Lincoln, the affable, easy-going county clerk of Spencer County.

Lincoln has never ballyhooed his remote connection with Abraham Lincoln, but now and then the irresistible resemblance and name spur his neighbors in this Hoosier county where Abe did much of his growing up, to call on Forrest to take convincing part in a patriotic pageant or other special program—donning stovepipe hat, black coat and other Lincolnesque apparel.

"Sometimes I feel a little conspicuous," he admits with a smile. "He was 6-foot-4—I'm 5-foot-7."

For the last several weeks Lincoln has been cultivating a beard in the manner of Honest Abe. On Friday he'll go to Chicago to take part of a southern Indiana exhibit of the Chicago World Flower and Garden Show at McCormick Place in Chicago.

The Lincoln Hills Arts and Crafts Association has been invited to present an exhibit in the show which runs March 20-28.

The association is made up of potters, weavers, painters and needlecrafters from Spencer, Perry, Crawford and Harrison counties. The theme of their exhibit will be "Springtime at the Cabin Door."

The invitation to the Chicago show, billed as America's greatest flower show, came after Mrs. E. Mary Conen, president of the Spencer County unit of the association, had a successful Christmas-time exhibit at a suburban Chicago bank, called "Christmas in the Cabin."

The exhibit will be a cutaway of a pioneer cabin. Along with native wild flowers there will be corn shuck dolls, carved apples, sunbonnets, rugs, and many other crafts shown plus piles of southern Indiana tourist literature. And Forrest Lincoln will play the part of Abe Lincoln for the first four days of the show. On March 19 a press conference of Chicago-area news media is planned.

But Lincoln says he'll take the whole thing in good-natured stride and plans to enjoy himself, as he has before.

In 1968 he rode on a float dressed like Abe, sitting in a rocking chair in front of a cabin, during Spencer County Sesqui-centennial celebrations in Rockport.

During the same celebrations, he took part in a beard growing contest—a beard growing contest, if you will, for the person looking most like Abe Lincoln.

The judge was Evansville television's weather woman, Marcia Yockey, who had motored down on a motorcycle for the festivities. She stroked Lincoln's beard, took a look at him, and he won hands down, though Lincoln thinks one of the other contestants should have won.

Last year an Indianapolis television station sought Lincoln out while they were filming a show on the former president's life in Spencer County. He was interviewed in his clerk's office. Forrest has also been written up in several newspapers.

Lincoln says he is not in the direct line of the president. His late father, E. S. Lincoln, conducted some research on the family ties and found that his branch of the family descended from a Thomas Lincoln who was a great-great uncle of Abraham Lincoln, the president.

Forrest Lincoln, who is 62, was born in Perry County. For many years he was manager of the former A&P store in Rockport. In 1969 he was elected county clerk and like his distant relative, he's a Republican, one of only two in the Spencer County courthouse today.

Forrest and Mary Lincoln have a daughter and two sons to carry on the Lincoln name and ties. Last fall when Forrest's mother died in Gary, the family inherited an old conch shell. Family tradition has it that Lincoln once blew into the conch shell when he was a lad in Spencer County.

Jury in Christian County Convicts Scott of Murder

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A Christian Circuit Court jury convicted Thomas Scott Wednesday on charges of murder and armed robbery in the 1965 shooting death of a Louisville grocer.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment on both counts. The jury deliberated about two hours before returning the verdict. After about an hour, the jury announced it was deadlocked 11-1. Judge Stephen White

told the panel to deliberate some more.

When the final verdict was announced Scott's attorney said he wanted a new trial.

Before the jury went out, Scott testified he never had been in the store where Francis Blackwell was killed. He also claimed he did not buy the gun believed used in the slaying until December 1968, one month after Blackwell's death.

Railroad Fined for Blocking Crossings on 2 Occasions

For the second time in almost 13 months, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad was fined Wednesday for violating an Owensboro ordinance which prohibits trains from blocking city crossings for more than five minutes.

After a trial in Police Court, City Judge William F. Bennett fined L&N a total of \$207 for two violations of the city ordinance.

The railroad firm was tagged with an identical fine for the same violation on Feb. 14, 1970. Yesterday, L&N was fined \$100 and costs (\$3.50) on each of

rant failed to appear to testify at the trial.

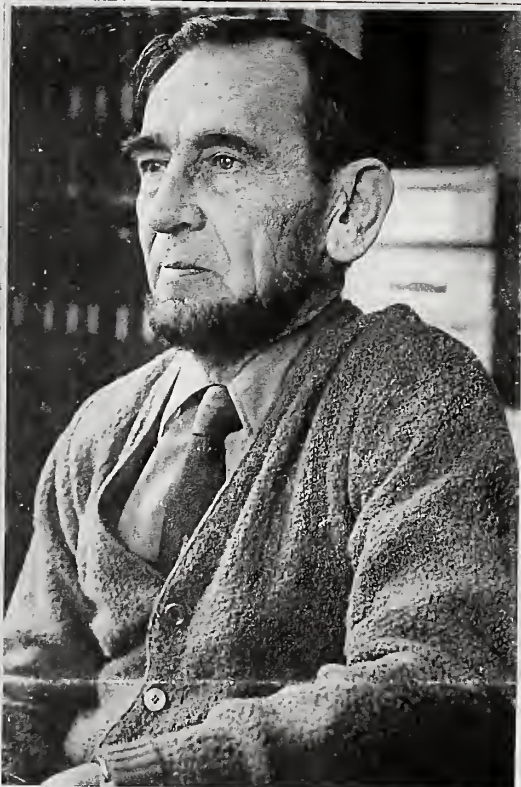
In testimony at the trial, L&N trainmaster Robert Lusby said the railroad company has been forced to reduce the speed of its trains as low as five miles per hour in "certain locations" through the city because of poor track conditions.

The "slowdown" order was issued, Lusby said, to avoid derailments where hazardous track conditions exist.

Lusby said work has been under way since early summer of

tween Walnut and Frederica streets, he said. This is the section of track at which the "slowdown" order is mainly directed, Lusby pointed out.

The legal counsel for L&N blamed the slowdown order for the fines against the railroad company. Of the charges for which L&N was fined, the attorney said that the crossings had been blocked for nine minutes and 10 minutes, respectively. Without the five mph order, the trains would have moved through the crossings faster and would not have been subject to a



FAMOUS RESEMBLANCE—Family resemblances are apparent in this profile of Spencer County's clerk, Forrest Lincoln. Lincoln is a distant cousin of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president. For several weeks, Forrest has been

growing a Lincolnesque beard in order to take part in a southern Indiana exhibit at next week's World Flower and Garden Show in Chicago.

Old, Familiar Refrain

Ashland Vo-School Needs Expansion

